

Utility Patent
Ser. No. 09/778,543

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 3 and 17 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims by deleting the language which is enclosed in brackets "[]" and inserting the language which is underlined "_____".

1. (Once Amended) An apparatus to teach a subject to vocally emulate sounds comprising:

a presence detecting sensor for detecting the presence of a subject;

a system for playing back a predetermined message, [where the] wherein said system initiates playback of said predetermined message upon [the] detection of the presence of [the person or animal] said subject by [the] said presence detecting sensor; and

a housing which contains [the] said sensor and [the] said playback initiation system.

2. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a system for selecting a prerecorded sound to be played, wherein said system comprises a selector switch for choosing a desired prerecorded sound.

3. Canceled.

5. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein[, the] said presence detecting sensor comprises[:] a movement sensing device.

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6. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein[, the] said presence detecting sensor comprises[:] a light sensing device for detecting the absence of light due to the presence of [the bird] said subject.
7. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein[, the] said presence detecting sensor comprises[:] a laser and a laser detection sensor.
8. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein[, the] said presence detecting sensor for detecting the presence of [a bird] said subject comprises[:] a heat sensing device.
9. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a bird perch, said bird perch for holding said subject, said subject being a bird.
10. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein [the] said bird perch is detachable.
11. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a mirror.
12. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein [the] said mirror is contained within [the] said housing, said mirror providing visual stimulation to said subject.

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13. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a means for attaching [the] said apparatus to a birdcage.
14. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 13 wherein, [the] said means for attaching [the] said apparatus to [a] said birdcage comprises a bracket.
15. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein, [the] said apparatus is capable of freely standing.
16. (Once Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 9 further comprising a trough, wherein said trough is inserted within a space formed within said bird perch.
17. Canceled.
18. (Once Amended) A method of teaching a subject to vocalize sounds comprising:
selecting a prerecorded sound to be played back by a playback system;
detecting [the] said subject's presence by a presence detecting sensor; and
upon the sensor's detection of [the] said subject, the prerecorded sound is played back for [the] said subject to hear, whereby [the] said subject learns to vocally emulate [the] a desired sound.

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Please add the following new Claim 19.

19. (New) An apparatus to teach a subject to vocally emulate sounds comprising:
- a housing, said housing comprising an front portion and a back portion;
 - a presence detecting sensor, said presence detecting sensor located at said front portion for detecting the presence of said subject;
 - a system for playing back a predetermined message, said system located at said back portion, and wherein said system initiates playback of said predetermined message upon detection of the presence of said subject by said presence detecting sensor;
 - a mirror, said mirror affixed to said front portion; and
 - a perch assembly, said perch assembly coupled to a lower portion of said housing.